



Press Release

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On: TEXAS SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY
INCREASED 6 PERCENT

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AUSTIN . . . The Texas inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 1.10 million head on January 1, 2004, up 6 percent from last year's level of 1.04 million head.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the inventory of breeding sheep and lambs totaled 840,000 head, up 2 percent from the 2003 total. Breeding ewes one year old and older were up 2 percent, at 675,000 head. Replacement lambs were unchanged at 120,000 head.

The 2003 lamb crop totaled 520,000 head, down 20,000 head from 2002, State Director Robin Roark reported.

Market sheep and lambs in Texas were up 18 percent from last year, totaling 260,000 head. Sheep for market totaled 10,000 head, unchanged from last year, while lambs for market totaled 250,000 head, up 19 percent from last year.

Lambs for market weighing less than 65 pounds totaled 130,000 head; lambs weighing 65 to 84 pounds totaled 50,000 head; lambs weighing 85 to 105 pounds totaled 40,000 head, and lambs weighing over 105 pounds totaled 30,000 head.

The January 1 Texas goat inventory was unchanged from last year at 1.20 million head.

Angora goats totaled 220,000 head, down 20,000 head from last year, while Spanish and other goats were up 2 percent from last year to 980,000 head.

Nationally, the inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003.

United States breeding sheep inventory on January 1, 2004, declined to 4.48 million head. Ewes one year and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

The 2003 lamb crop was 4.12 million head, down 5 percent from 2002. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 1.61 million head on January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total.

Market lambs weighing less than 65 pounds accounted for 27 percent of the total; 65 to 84 pounds, 16 percent; 85 to 105 pounds, 23 percent; and more than 105 pounds, 30 percent. Market sheep account for 4 percent.

The Angora goat inventory in the three major producing states totaled 260,000 head compared with 285,000 head last year.

SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY AND LAMB CROP ¹

Item	Texas		
	January 1		2004 as percent of 2003
	2003	2004	
INVENTORY:	<u>1,000 head</u>		<u>Percent</u>
All sheep and lambs	* 1,040	1,100	106
Breeding sheep and lambs	* 820	840	102
Ewes 1 year old and older	* 660	675	102
Rams 1 year old and older	40	45	113
Replacement lambs under 1 year old .	120	120	100
Market sheep and lambs	* 220	260	118
Sheep 1 year old and over	10	10	100
Lambs under 1 year old	* 210	250	119
Under 65 pounds	* 130	130	100
65-84 pounds	40	50	125
85-105 pounds	* 25	40	160
Over 105 pounds	15	30	200
All goats	1,200	1,200	100
Angora goats	* 240	220	92
Spanish and other goats	* 960	980	102
	2002	2003	2003 as percent of 2002
	<u>1,000</u>		<u>Percent</u>
	540	520	96
Lamb crop			

¹ Inventory estimates now include Barbado sheep and lambs. * Revised.